

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph to page 3 of the original specification, after the paragraph ending on line 16.

--For example, in the case where an ROI is determined on the basis of the contour shape (such as positions of concavities of the contour or the like) of an object in an image of a cervical spine part in conformity with the method (1) (the method disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-099708 and so forth), the ROI of X-ray images obtained by the front radiographing or the lateral radiographing of the cervical spine part could surely be determined. However, when the cervical spine is greatly bent forward at the time of cervical spine anteflexion radiographing in which the cervical spine part is radiographed in the lateral direction thereof with the cervical spine being bent forward, there is the case where concavity of the contour of the cervical spine part in the X-ray image is not produced at the position of the neck of an object. In this case, no ROI can stably be determined.--